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Cabrera, Angel. *GENERA MAMMALIUM. MONOTREMATA, MARSUPIALIA*. Madrid, Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, pp. 1-177, pls. 1-19, many figures in color. 1919 (Received in Washington October 6).

The appearance of the first part of Cabrera's *Genera Mammalium* marks the beginning of a work which, if completed in the same manner that it has been begun, will be the most important publication on mammals since Trouessart issued his *Catalogus* twenty years ago. The author has had long experience in the analytic study of his subject; he now shows his ability in synthesis. Those who are acquainted with the literature of mammals will appreciate the degree to which this combination of qualities is rare.

"The plan which I have followed," Mr. Cabrera writes in his preface (freely translated), "is the same as that of the well known *Genera Insectorum* of Wytsman, a plan which has appeared to me the most satisfactory on account of its conciseness and clearness. In imitation of the procedure followed in this monument of entomological literature I omit keys to the species, limiting myself to enumerating these alphabetically and distinguishing them by serial numbers; the same is done under each species for the subspecies, which are designated by Greek letters. I recognize that my book is, rather than the result of personal investigation, a simple work of compilation. If there is anything good or useful in it this will be the material which I have taken from others. My task, more mechanical than anything else, has merely been to assemble this material. The errors which may have slipped in will, I hope, be pardoned by the reader in view of the abnormal conditions which humanity is subjected to at this time and which have made it difficult to procure certain references and details that would have contributed toward greater completeness."

The text is entirely in Spanish. It consists of a series of diagnoses and keys (strictly dichotomous and clearly expressed; I have not yet had the opportunity to test them with specimens), covering all groups from order to subgenus. Synonymies and distributions are given under genera, subgenera, species and subspecies; a bibliographical paragraph is included in the account of each family. Other subjects formally treated are: history (under families), habits (under families), reproduction (under families), paleontology (under families), types of recognized genera and subgenera, and derivation of the accepted generic and subgeneric names. Mr. Cabrera's work has been done with great care, thoroughness, and skill, so that errors, typographical and other, are conspicuously infrequent. The omission may be noted of *Leucodidelphis* (von Ihering, Revista Mus. Paulista, vol. 9, p. 347, 1914) under the genus *Didelphis* and of the very important *Eodelphis* (Matthew, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 35, p. 477, July 24, 1916) in the account of the paleontology of the family *Didelphidae*. Three new genera are described: *Minuania* (type, *Didelphis dimidiata* Wagner), *Holothylax* (type, *Didelphis opossum* Linnæus), and *Amperta* (type *Chatoecercus cristicauda* Krefft). The plates were drawn by the author. While the figures of skulls and teeth seem to be entirely satisfactory the reproduction of the colored drawings leaves much to be desired; obviously in most instances justice to the originals has not been done.

There are three features in the plan of the book which might be altered to the advantage of future parts. The scale of reduction or enlargement could be indicated by a symbol placed after the number of each figure on the plates, a table

of contents could be added in which the classification adopted would be shown in synoptic form, and the extinct members of the group could be given their proper place in the general text if not in the keys. At present the fossils are cursorily mentioned in the paragraph headed Paleontology as part of the general account of each family. Hence such fossils as represent families of their own, like *Diprotodon* or *Nototherium*, entirely escape notice. Furthermore, such names of fossils as do occur in the text are not included in the index and are not accompanied by references. This failure to treat the extinct forms in the same manner as those now living is a surprise in view of the comprehensive title *Genera Mammalium*. It is the only serious adverse criticism to which the book appears to be open. But unfortunately it too often happens at present that mammals preserved in rock are treated and thought of as essentially different from those preserved with arsenic or alcohol.

As a book the volume has the attractive character which comes from well selected type, well arranged paragraphs, and well margined pages. It reflects credit on the National Museum of Spain and on the "Junta para ampliación de estudios é investigaciones científicas" under whose auspices it is published.

—G. S. Miller.

Lönnberg, Einar. REMARKS ON SOME SOUTH AMERICAN CANIDÆ. Arkiv för Zoologi, Stockholm, vol. 12, no. 13, pp. 1-18, figs. 1-4. Printed September 3, 1919.

Dr. Lönnberg describes and figures the skull of *Pseudalopex lycoides* (Philippi), basing his account on three specimens collected on the eastern pampas of Tierra del Fuego by Ohlin during Nordenskjöld's expedition of 1895-6. While resembling the skull of *P. magellanicus* from the neighboring mainland in form it is decidedly larger, agreeing with that of the *P. peruanus* (Nordenskjöld) found in a cave near Tirapata on the Peruvian plateau. The Peruvian animal was a contemporary of *Onohippidium*, *Scleridotherium* and other extinct mammals. Apparently it has survived with little or no change on Tierra del Fuego while another species has replaced it on the continent. Such a history would parallel that of microtine rodents now inhabiting Guernsey and the Orkney Islands.

The skull of a domestic dog, probably pure bred, obtained from a party of Yaghan Indians on Tierra del Fuego is also described and figured. It shows no resemblances to any of the known native South American Canidæ, but essentially agrees with the pre-Columbian dogs of Peru. In discussing the characters of this specimen Doctor Lönnberg remarks: "That the so-called domesticated dogs are of polyphyletic origin is nowadays generally admitted". Prevalent though this belief may be it probably rests on no secure basis of facts. Superficial resemblances, in general form, in color, and in quality of fur, to jackals, coyotes, foxes and other wild members of the family may not infrequently be seen in domestic dogs. But in all the specimens that I have examined, representing very diversified breeds, the skull and teeth remain fundamentally true to the type which in wild canids is peculiar to the northern wolves. This type, particularly as regards the cheekteeth, does not represent a primitive condition which might be expected to occur in various members of the family without having any special significance. On the contrary, in respect to the development of a combined cutting and crushing type of carnassials and molars it is the most